



## EUROPEAN UNION

### OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation Nr 788 Vienna, 13 May 2015

#### **EU Statement on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition**

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The European Union wishes to warmly welcome today's speakers and thank them for their valuable contributions to the FSC discussion on addressing risks stemming from the illicit trafficking and destabilising accumulation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and conventional ammunition.

This is a topic which the latest negative and highly disturbing security developments in the OSCE area and its immediate neighbourhood have brought to the fore requiring an adequate and urgent response by the international community.

In particular, the crisis in and around Ukraine has once again clearly demonstrated the multifaceted risks related to the illicit spread of SALW and conventional weapons, their illegal supply to the separatist groups in eastern Ukraine by the Russian Federation, and its tragic impact on the safety and the security of the civilian population.

We would like to thank also the Montenegrin FSC Chairmanship for organising this Security Dialogue thereby providing the OSCE participating States with the opportunity to reaffirm their commitment to the full implementation of the OSCE politico-military documents, particularly those in the field of SALW, conventional arms control and CSBMs regimes.

For our part, we continue to strongly believe that the OSCE Documents on SALW and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (SCA) remain a valid normative basis not only for combating the illicit trafficking and destabilising accumulation of SALW and SCA but also for strengthening the OSCE capabilities to deal with the conflict cycle in all its phases.

In this respect we reiterate our strong and longstanding position in favour of strengthening the OSCE relevant norms and activities through improved implementation and increased coherence and complementarity with the UN framework in line with the respective provisions of Ministerial Council decision 10/14.

In particular, we stress the need to continue discussing ways to uphold and update, where appropriate, the OSCE SALW-commitments in the light, inter alia, of important UN documents such as the UN Programme of Action on SALW and the outcome document of the Fifth Biennial Meeting of States, the ATT, UNSCR 2117 on SALW, as well as UNSCR 2106 and 2122 on women, peace and security, including on strengthening women's role in all stages of the conflict cycle.

We welcome and fully support the draft FSC decision tabled by the Montenegrin Chairmanship on the OSCE Meeting to Review the Implementation of OSCE Projects on SALW and SCA which we view as a concrete step towards the implementation of the FSC tasks stipulated in MC decision 10/14.

Along with our continued and substantial support to projects related to destruction of surplus SALW and SCA and physical security management, including in conflict areas, we stand ready to reinforce the OSCE commitments on maritime transport of SALW as well as to improve co-operation with OSCE Partners for Cooperation. We welcome therefore the proposals for FSC draft decisions on providing assistance to the OSCE Partners for Cooperation and preventing illicit trafficking of SALW by sea and are grateful to their authors and cosponsors for their commitment to further enhance the OSCE normative basis in the field of SALW and SCA.

Last but obviously not least, we recall that the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) entered into force on 24 December 2014. So far 130 UN States have signed it and 67 ratified, which demonstrates a vibrant international momentum. 45 OSCE participating States, among which all EU Member States have signed the Treaty and, so far, 35 OSCE participating States, out of which 26 EU Member States have ratified it. In this vein, we encourage all OSCE participating States to sign and ratify the Treaty as soon as possible.

Furthermore, we reiterate that the European Union continues to see an important role for the OSCE with regard to the universalisation and the full implementation of the ATT on the basis of the provisions of MC decision 10/14.

The candidate countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA<sup>\*</sup>, MONTENEGRO, ICELAND<sup>\*\*</sup> and ALBANIA, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA countries LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA, ANDORRA and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

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<sup>\*</sup> The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

<sup>\*\*</sup> Iceland continues to be a member of EFTA and the European Economic Area.